

electronic record does not excuse the other party's regulatory obligation to have accurate and accessible records or otherwise exempt the transaction from this provision. To suggest otherwise, flies in the face of the plain meaning of the statute and opens up a gaping loophole for fraudsters to take advantage of.

Conferees should be given adequate time to review and reach agreement on the statement of managers required under the Rules. This short-cut has proven to be a dangerous and unacceptable alternative.

VETERANS TRAVEL FAIRNESS ACT

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2000

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, a major issue of concern for veterans and their families in rural areas all around this nation is the long distances they must travel to receive medical care at the VA hospitals. The current VA reimbursement rate for privately owned motor vehicle use is unreasonable and presents a real hardship for many rural veterans, some of whom must travel hundreds of miles to receive care. The issue is especially important now, because of the high price of gasoline.

As many of us know, the cost of driving and maintaining a motor vehicle is significant. The travel reimbursement rate developed for Federal employees reflects these costs. This rate is the established Internal Revenue Service rate, the same, fair rate that we are allowed to claim on our income taxes. Currently, the Veterans Affairs travel reimbursement rate is only 11 cents per mile, compared to a rate of 32.5 cents per mile used by Federal employees and the IRS.

Why should a veteran driving 100 miles across the state for medical care be reimbursed only \$11.00, when a Federal employee gets \$32.50 for going the same distance to a meeting in his own car? In fact, Department of Veterans Affairs employees themselves get reimbursed at the higher rate, while the clients they serve are expected to travel at a fraction of the cost. It simply does not make sense for the VA to use a different and stingy method to determine reimbursement rates for vets that are only one-third what is considered reasonable for Federal employees.

I am introducing this bill to amend Title 38, United States Code, to provide that the rate of reimbursement for motor vehicle travel regulated under the beneficiary travel program of the Department of Veterans Affairs be the same as the rate for private vehicle reimbursement for Federal employees.

This is an equity issue and also a matter of respect in the way we treat our veterans. Our vets deserve the same travel reimbursement rate as Federal employees. Please join me in supporting this bill.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a sys-

tem for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, June 22, 2000 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 26

1 p.m.

Aging

To hold hearings on the hardships that dialysis patients endure and the options for improving the government's oversight.

SD-628

JUNE 27

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-366

Armed Services

To hold hearings on the nominations of Lt. Gen. Tommy R. Franks, United States Army, to be General; and Lt. Gen. William F. Kernan, United States Army, to be General.

SR-222

Rules and Administration

To hold hearings on the operations of the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian Institution.

SR-301

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine reprocessing of single-use medical devices.

SD-430

2 p.m.

Judiciary

Immigration Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the border crisis in Arizona, and the impact on the state and local communities.

SD-226

Judiciary

Administrative Oversight and the Courts Subcommittee

To resume oversight hearings to examine the 1996 campaign finance investigations.

SH-216

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Energy Research, Development, Production and Regulation Subcommittee

To hold hearings on the April 2000 GAO report entitled "Nuclear Waste Cleanup—DOE's Paducah Plan Faces Uncertainties and Excludes Costly Cleanup Activities".

SD-366

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings on the nomination of Karl William Hofmann, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Togolese Republic; Howard Franklin Jeter, of South Carolina, to be Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Nigeria; John W. Limbert, of Vermont, to be Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania; Roger A. Meece, of Washington, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Malawi; Donald Y. Yamamoto, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Djibouti; and Sharon P. Wilkinson, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Mozambique.

SD-419

JUNE 28

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-366

Environment and Public Works

Business meeting to mark up S. 2437, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States; and other pending calendar business.

SD-406

10 a.m.

Finance

Business meeting to mark up proposed legislation relating to the marriage tax penalty.

SD-215

Judiciary

To hold hearings on the struggle for justice for former U.S. World War II POW's.

SD-226

11 a.m.

Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-419

2 p.m.

Judiciary

Technology, Terrorism, and Government Information Subcommittee

To hold hearings on countering the changing threat of international terrorism.

SD-226

Foreign Relations

European Affairs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the treatment of U.S. business in Central and Eastern Europe.

SD-419

2:30 p.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings on S. 2283, to amend the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century to make certain amendments with respect to Indian tribes.

SR-485

JUNE 29

9:30 a.m.

Governmental Affairs

Investigations Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the nationwide crisis of mortgage fraud.

SD-342

June 21, 2000

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

11849

10 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee
To hold oversight hearings on the United States Forest Service's Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan amendment, and Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Plan.

SD-366

1 p.m.
Governmental Affairs
To hold oversight hearings to examine the rising oil prices and the efficiency and effectiveness of the Executive Branch Response.

SD-342

2 p.m.
Environment and Public Works
Superfund, Waste Control, and Risk Assessment Subcommittee
To hold hearings on S. 2700, to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 to promote the cleanup and reuse of brownfields, to provide financial assistance for brownfields revitalization, to enhance State response programs.

SD-406

2:30 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation Subcommittee
To hold hearings on S. 134, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study whether the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore should be protected as a wilderness area; S. 2051, to revise the

boundaries of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area; S. 2279, to authorize the addition of land to Sequoia National Park; and S. 2512, to convey certain Federal properties on Governors Island, New York.

SD-366

JUNE 30

9:30 a.m.
Governmental Affairs
Investigations Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the nationwide crisis of mortgage fraud.

SD-342

JULY 12

2:30 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee
To hold oversight hearings on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement implementing the October 1999 announcement by the President to review approximately 40 million acres of national forest for increased protection.

SD-366

Indian Affairs
To hold oversight hearings on risk management and tort liability relating to Indian matters.

SR-485

JULY 19

2:30 p.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold oversight hearings on activities of the National Indian Gaming Commission.

SR-485

JULY 26

2:30 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee
To hold oversight hearings on potential timber sale contract liability incurred by the government as a result of timber sale contract cancellations.

SD-366

Indian Affairs
To hold hearings on S. 2526, to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to revise and extend such Act.

SR-485

SEPTEMBER 26

9:30 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on the Legislative recommendation of the American Legion.

345 Cannon Building

CANCELLATIONS

JUNE 27

10 a.m.
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings on S. 1016, to provide collective bargaining for rights for public safety officers employed by States or their political subdivisions.

SD-430